



ABBOT HALL, A LANDMARK for nearly a century, is made a mess of rubble within a few hours as giant bulldozer with battering ram extension tears away at the front entrance of the old social gathering place in Forge Village. (G.B. Seavey photo)

Forge Village landmark

Abbot Hall, is razed

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD — Another Forge Village landmark, venerable Abbot Hall which took many months to construct at the turn of the century became a mass of rubble in a single day, March 13.

As a giant bulldozer with a lethal, long steel nose crashed into the sizeable wooden structure, on each passing it brought to old timers the many pleasurable memories which occurred within its walls during its long life.

It was the social gathering place for the mill workers and the villagers. Now it is rubble.

The town's first motion pictures were shown here. The John Edwards Hose Co. #3, under Captain Edward Hunt, held its annual ball in the auditorium. It was the practice hall for the newly organized Abbot Worsted Band.

Here there were socials of various kinds, whilst parties, testimonials for returning war veterans and outstanding athletes. St. Patrick's Day parties and minstrel shows. Local churches and groups used the facilities usually rent free, on many occasions.

Helen Drolet held her wedding reception in the hall. Ex-postmistress Josephine Sorrell Connell recalls that just prior to Christmas, youngsters from the Cameron School would file down the hill to the building for the annual visit with Abbot's Santa Claus.

But the movies, the Dickers, were the big thing—City entertainment was brought to the country.

Jack Abbott, Leader

Treasurer John C. Abbot of the Abbot Inn was the spark plug who had the entire Inn remodeled and enlarged to accommodate these events. He also was the organizer of the

Abbot soccer and baseball teams, bowling clubs, the band and the excursions by train for the benefit of the employees.

Jack Abbott (as he liked to be called) was a friend to all. He appointed his right hand man and purchasing agent, Edward F. Blum, to manage the movies, the company cafeteria and the band. Ed "bought" the films to be shown, bringing them from the distributors point in Boston.

Two Shows a Week

There was a show in the middle of the week and always one on Saturday night. That shown was a reel of Paramount news, then one part of a serial such as *Ten of Hearts* or *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Then came the feature. This was the son of the late Silvers and Charlie Chaplin and Alvin Eckford.

While some of the rocks were smoking in Forge, the other half was being used by the other Abol Hall in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the first time.

A high-contrast, black and white image showing a dense, textured surface, possibly a brick wall or a heavily textured material, with a vertical line of light on the left side.

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation and the goals that need to be achieved.